

KAUR given Thanksgiving deadline for move

BY TAMMY VAN WYHE
assistant editor

Nearly a year and a half ago, it was decided that KAUR, Augustana's student radio station, needed to move from its present quarters in Old Main to more workable and safer surroundings.

This was a joint decision made by students in charge of KAUR and by administrators concerned about the station and its location.

At first, the possibility of a move to another location on campus was discussed, then planned for, then promised, and then put off. And then put off again—and again.

The cause of the delays? It's a matter of opinion.

From the students' perspective, it has been a case of inefficiency and poor planning. They are not blaming "those in charge;" they are merely discouraged.

"I don't like to sound too negative by saying the administration isn't cooperating, because they are," Jim Barkley, KAUR's station manager, said. "They're just notoriously slow."

From the viewpoint of the administrators handling KAUR's move, it has been a case of "first things first."

According to Don Scott, the vice-president of finance and planning at the college, "There were other commitments that demanded completion first. And that put KAUR on the back burner for a while. That was my choice, but it was a choice that had to be made."

Then there is the opinion of the "mid-

dle man." Brian Bonde, KAUR's administrative adviser, worked at the campus station while he was a student at Augustana and has been directly involved with its workings since 1977.

Bonde faces a dilemma in the situation: he sympathizes with both "sides" but can't take a firm position because of his relations with both the students and the administrators.

"I'm just as discouraged as the students in some ways. Some students have put in a lot of time preparing for the move, and it didn't happen," Bonde said.

On the "other side," however, Bonde must defend the administration, of which he is a part.

"We get so busy doing our own little things up here sometimes...there are other things that demand our time and attention. It ended up being a matter of 'KAUR can wait,' I guess."

While the views regarding which delays were the most important vary from students to administrators and back again, there is a general agreement on what the major delay factors are.

First was a conflict stemming from contracts with the South Dakota Children's Home Society. The group was leasing the north wing on the first floor of Tuve Hall for classroom purposes. When the society's lease was up, the group was unable to find a new location to move into.

"They're an organization that we want to work with carefully," Scott said, so they were allowed to stay until something could be worked out.

In June 1986, the society moved into East Hall, another building on campus.

KAUR personnel assumed that the unoccupied status of their "new home" would mean that remodeling would begin immediately, and they would be in the new location by the beginning of the 1986-87 school year.

Barkley said students working at the station were very optimistic at that point. It looked as though the move would occur "right on time."

In a memo from Scott dated April 25, 1985, KAUR personnel were notified that "The move will not occur in the summer of 1985 but will be scheduled for late summer or early fall in 1986."

Only a few days' remodeling work had been completed by Augustana maintenance crews this summer when the scheduled move suffered yet another setback.

Due to the rearranging of several administrative offices on campus, other projects demanding the services of the maintenance staff had to be completed before the beginning of the school year.

Chet Whitney, an assistant to the president, conveyed the fact that a maintenance crew is assigned to several projects on campus each year.

"We allow Gene Marko [director of maintenance] to assign crews to do the various jobs that need to be done on campus. We leave it up to him to do what he feels are most important first," Whitney said.

"And other jobs, like the student ser-

vices offices and student organization offices like forensics, the yearbook, and the *Mirror* had to be moved before school started to keep things operating smoothly," he said.

When the summer of 1986 deadline was obviously impossible to meet, a new deadline of the third week in September 1986 was set.

According to administrators, the new deadline was unofficial. To Barkley and the other students awaiting the promised move, this newly set deadline was very official, and they expected it to be met.

"However, that deadline came and went without anything being said," Barkley noted. "Actually, they didn't start working over there until about that time."

After Barkley sent a memo to Scott, Whitney, Bonde and Marko on Oct. 20 asking for a firm deadline to be set, a new "move date" was scheduled by administrators for Thanksgiving.

Barkley said that much progress has been made in the remodeling process in Tuve this week and hopes maintenance will soon be done. But the physical remodeling is not the end of the story.

KAUR must then bring in engineers to do the wiring, carpet needs to be installed, sound panels put in place and then the actual moving of station equipment will begin.

"I'm disappointed we didn't move before, but I'm excited because it is coming," Barkley said. "I know we're going to move. It's just a matter of when."